

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT) MAXIMUM TRUCK LOADINGS AND DIMENSIONS

(T-1)  
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## Regulations pertaining to the operation of trucks and trailers according to Act 300 P.A. 1949 as amended

### Contents:

- [Maximum Overall Dimensions](#)
- [Exceptions](#)
- [Mobile Homes](#)
- [Special Permits Information](#)
- [Maximum Speed](#)
- [Specially Designated Highways](#)

**NOTE:** When restricted loadings are in effect, the normal maximum axle weights allowable on rigid pavements shall be reduced 25% and the maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch width of tire.

When restricted loadings are in effect, the normal maximum axle weights allowable on flexible pavements shall be reduced 35% and the maximum wheel load shall not exceed 450 pounds per inch width of tire.

## MAXIMUM OVERALL DIMENSIONS

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Width:</b>                                  | 96 inches        |
| <b>Width (designated highways):</b>            | 102 inches       |
| <b>Height:</b>                                 | 13 feet 6 inches |
| <b>Length of semi-trailer (including load)</b> |                  |
| • <b>Non-Designated Highway**</b>              | 50 Feet          |
| <b>Length of semi-trailer (including load)</b> |                  |
| • <b>Designated Highway**</b>                  | 53 feet          |

**\*\*** [See Special Permit Information below](#)

### Length of a combination of truck-tractor and semi-trailer with or without load :

- No Limitation

**Length of any other vehicle with or without load (excluding impact absorbing bumpers):**

- 40 feet

**Units permitted in train:**

- ♦ Truck-tractor, semi-trailer and trailer
- ♦ Truck tractor and 2 semi-trailers
- ♦ Truck and semi-trailer or trailer

**Length of a combination of truck-tractor, semi-trailer and trailer or truck-tractor and 2 semi-trailers or truck and semi-trailer or trailer with or without load or pickup truck, semi-trailer designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer or semi-trailer (see exceptions:**

- 59 feet

Semi-trailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of 37 to 41 feet measured from the kingpin coupling to the center of the axles or to the center of the tandem axle assembly if equipped with 2 axles.

**Semi-trailers longer than 53 feet:**

- Limited to 2 axles.
- Shall operate on designated highways only.
- Semi-trailers and trailers shall be measured from the front vertical plane of the foremost transverse load supporting structure to the rearmost transverse load supporting structure.
- Length shall not include safety and energy conservation devices including, but not limited to, impact absorbing bumpers, rear view mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, steps and hand holds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps or splash and suppressant devices, load induced tire bulge, refrigeration or heating units, or air compressors. A device shall be excluded from a determination of length only if it is not designed or used for the carrying of cargo.

**Projection beyond front of vehicles:** 3 feet

**Overhang beyond rear of vehicles:**

- Any amount is permissible if the legal length is not exceeded. However if this overhang is 4 feet or more, there shall be displayed on the extreme rear of such load a 12 inch red square flag in the daytime and a red light or lantern at night.

**Axle limitation:**

- A combination of vehicles shall not exceed 11 axles.

## **EXCEPTIONS:**

### **Width:**

- Unprocessed Logs, Pulpwood, Wood Bolts, Agricultural Products, and Concrete Pipe, 108 inches for load only
- Busses: 102 inches
- Implements of Husbandry:  
"A farmer only" may operate or move an implement of husbandry of any width on a highway as required for normal farming operations.

### **Length:**

#### **Truck-Tractor, Semi-Trailer, and Trailer or Truck-Tractor and 2 Semi-Trailers:**

- No overall length limitation providing the length of each semi-trailer and trailer including load does not exceed 28 feet 6 inches or the overall length of the semi-trailer and trailer or 2 semi-trailers as measured from the front of the first towed unit to the rear of the second towed unit while the units are coupled together does not exceed an overall length of 58 feet, including load. Any such combination, except as herein described with regard to assembled motor vehicles or bodies, recreational vehicles or boats may be operated only on such highways and routes as designated by the appropriate authorities.

#### **Truck and Trailer or Semi-Trailer:**

- Overall length not to exceed 65 feet. Any such combination may be operated only on such highways and routes as designated by the appropriate authorities.

#### **Truck and Trailer or Semi-Trailer:**

- Designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length poles. Overall length is not to exceed 70 feet including load. Any such combination may be operated only on such highways and routes as designated by the appropriate authorities.

#### **Truck-Tractor, Semi-trailer, and Trailer, or Truck Tractor and Semi-Trailer or Trailer designed and used exclusively to transport assembled motor vehicles or bodies, recreational vehicles, or boats:**

- Any such combination not to exceed a total length of 65 feet, except a stinger-steered combination shall not exceed a total length of 75 feet. the load on any such combination of vehicles may extend an additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet beyond the rear of the combination of vehicles.

**Articulated Busses:**

- Articulate busses operated by a local public transit system funded by Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951 as amended, may operate with a maximum length of 65 feet.

**Motor vehicles wholly or partially assembled transported by utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full mount mechanisms and using the motive power of 1 vehicle:**

- Any such combination of vehicles may not exceed the maximum length of 75 feet. Any combination that exceeds 55 feet in length may be operated only on such highways and routes as designated by appropriate authorities.

**NOTE: The total gross weight of any 65 foot combination of vehicles shall not exceed a ratio of 400 lbs. per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch or its' equivalent specified in the SAE test code.**

**MOBILE HOMES:**

- 45 feet in body length, 60 feet when in combination with a towing unit 8 feet 4 inches in width, 12 feet 6 inches in height.

**VEHICLES TRANSPORTING FLAMMABLE LIQUID, IN BULK, WHICH HAS A FLASH POINT AT OR BELOW 70 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT:**

- Vehicles shall meet safety standards as determined by the Department of State Police. Vehicles manufactured after July 27, 1978, are limited to 11 feet 8-1/2 inches maximum height.

**Truck-Tractor, Semi-Trailer and Trailer or Truck-Tractor and 2 Semi-Trailers:**

- Movement not allowed within a county having a population of **600,000** or more except between the hours of midnight to 6:00 a.m. on routes and at times designated by the Department of State Police.

**Truck, or a Truck and Trailer, or a Truck-Tractor and Semi-Trailer:**

- Movement not allowed transporting a quantity of more than **9,000** gallons within a county having a population of 600,000 or more except between the hours of midnight to 6:00 a.m. on routes and at times designated by the Department of State Police.

## **SPECIAL PERMIT INFORMATION**

Vehicles or the loads thereon which exceed the legal dimensions or weights as listed, require a SPECIAL TRANSPORT PERMIT for travel. SPECIAL TRANSPORT PERMITS are issued only for the occasional movement of oversize or overweight vehicles or loads which cannot be dismantled, reduced or otherwise rearranged to come within the legal limits. Applications for permits are to be made on regular department Application Form No. 2258 or through the Michigan Permitting and Routing System (MIPARS) software application. Application is to be made in person at one of the MDOT Transportation Service Centers (TSC) or through a permit service. No overweight permits are issued when weight restrictions are in effect.

## **MAXIMUM TRUCK SPEED**

No truck, tractor or tractor with trailer, or any combination of such vehicles with a gross weight, loaded or unloaded, **in excess of 10,000** pounds shall exceed a speed of **55 miles** per hour. Speed shall be reduced to 35 miles per hour where reduced loadings are being enforced during the period of seasonal weight restrictions.

## **SPECIAL DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS**

**These routes are indicated by the color green and gold on the Michigan Department of Transportation Truck Operators' Map.**

- **This map is available free of charge at:**
  - ♦ MDOT Region Offices and Transportation Service Centers
  - ♦ All Michigan Weight Stations
  - ♦ State Police Motor Carrier Division Posts
  - ♦ Michigan Trucking Association
  - ♦ Michigan Road Builders Association